Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hollow fan blade half comprising:

a substrate having a root edge and an opposite tip spaced radially outward from the root, the substrate further including a leading edge opposite a trailing edge, the leading edge spaced chordwise from the trailing edge; and

a first rib and a second rib formed on the substrate, the first rib including a flared longitudinal end

2. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 1 further including an elongated, continuous cavity between the first rib and the second rib, the first rib substantially parallel to the second rib.

3. (Currently Amended) The hollow fan blade half of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the cavity extends continuously along a first path adjacent the first rib and then around the flared end.

4. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 3 wherein the cavity extends continuously from the flared end along a second path between the first rib and the second rib.

5. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 4 wherein the cavity extends continuously around an end of the second rib.

6. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 1 wherein the flared end is a portion of increased thickness.

7. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 6 further including a plurality of the first ribs alternating with a plurality of the second ribs and wherein the cavity extends continuously in a serpentine path around each flared end of each of the plurality of first ribs and around an end of each of the plurality of second ribs.

8. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 7 wherein the plurality of first ribs and the plurality of second ribs are at least substantially parallel and wherein the flared ends of the first ribs are staggered.

9. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 8 wherein a width of the continuous cavity remains constant along the serpentine path.

10. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 7 wherein the plurality of first ribs and the plurality of second ribs are at least substantially parallel, wherein a width of the continuous cavity remains constant along the serpentine path, and wherein the second ribs are thinner near the flared ends of the first ribs.

11. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 7 wherein the plurality of first ribs and the plurality of second ribs do not intersect one another.

12. (Original) The hollow fan blade half of claim 7 wherein the plurality of first ribs and plurality of second ribs are each freestanding, such that they do not intersect any other ribs.

13. (Currently Amended) The hollow fan blade half of claim 1 wherein the ~~plurality of ribs~~ the first rib and the second rib are parallel in a region adjacent the root edge.

14. (Currently Amended) A hollow fan blade including a pair of joined hollow fan blade halves according to claim 1 wherein the first and second ribs in one of the pair of hollow fan blade halves are directly joined to and abut corresponding first and second ribs in the other of the pair to form the hollow fan blade.

15. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine engine including a plurality of the hollow fan blades of claim 14, the gas turbine engine further including a combustor rotatably driving a plurality of turbine blades, wherein rotation of the turbine blades rotatably drives the plurality of hollow fan blades.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Original) A method for making a hollow fan blade including the steps of:

a. machining a continuous cavity on a first substrate around a first rib, the continuous cavity following a path around a flared end of the first rib; and

b. abutting the plurality of ribs on the first substrate with a second substrate to form a hollow fan blade.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said step a) further includes machining the continuous cavity in a serpentine path to form a plurality of first ribs and a plurality of second ribs, the serpentine path extending continuously around the flared end of each of the plurality of first ribs.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 further including the step of forming a first rib on the second substrate and wherein said step b) further includes the step of abutting the first rib on the first substrate with the first rib on the second substrate.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of ribs do not intersect one another.

21. (New) In a gas turbine engine hollow fan blade having opposed walls each having a leading edge, a trailing edge, a root edge and a tip, the improvement comprising:

a first rib and a second rib extending between the opposed walls, the first rib including a flared end.

22. (New) The fan blade of claim 21 further including a cavity extending continuously around the flared end of the first rib.

23. (New) A gas turbine engine including a plurality of the hollow fan blades of claim 22 disposed about a fan rotor, the gas turbine engine further including a combustor rotatably driving a plurality of turbine blades, wherein rotation of the turbine blades rotatably drives the plurality of hollow fan blades.

24. (New) The hollow fan blade detail half of claim 1 wherein the first rib curves generally from a region adjacent the root edge toward the leading edge.

25. (New) The hollow fan blade detail half of claim 1 wherein the first rib is one of a plurality of first ribs, each having a flared end, each of a plurality of cavities extending continuously around one of the plurality of flared ends, wherein the plurality of cavities are not continuous with one another.

26. (New) The hollow fan blade detail half of claim 25 wherein the second rib is one of a plurality of second ribs, each of the second ribs completely separating an adjacent pair of the plurality of cavities.